

*The Tsinoy community immediately mobilized themselves in helping provide relief for the victims of Typhoon Ondoy.*

# Tsinoy help Typhoon Ondoy victims

***E**ven before the rains had abated, text messages circulated among the Tsinoy community with queries on which organizations would be organizing relief operations, and how people could extend their help. This proactiveness from Tsinoy allowed the various organizations to immediately send out relief goods a day after the downpour.*

*Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran immediately brought 500 packs of relief goods on Sept. 29 to Tatalon Elementary School, where victims of both fire and flood were seeking shelter. As of press time, Kaisa had received a total of P1.6 million in cash and more in kind. Volunteers from Charity First Foundation, Philippine Cultural College, Voice of Binondo, family members and friends of Kaisa, and numerous individuals who heard of Kaisa's efforts had since packed 15,000 bags of relief goods and sent them to various areas in Quezon City, Malabon, Marilao, Pasig, Makati, Cainta, Montalban and San Mateo, Rizal, Bae in Laguna.*

ONDOY p.15



5,000 people receive relief packs from Kaisa (top right)

More than 150 volunteers troop to Kaisa to help in packing relief goods (right).

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Even the act of bringing food for the volunteers, numbering more than 150 daily, is a relief effort in itself. Most heartwarming is to see guests to Bahay Tsinoy, museum of Chinese in Philippine life deciding to stay and help in the packing when they saw the operations underway at the Kaisa-Angelo King Heritage Center in Intramuros.

Kaisa also provided 50 tents for the psycho-social post trauma volunteer team organized by the National Center for Mental Health. Volunteer psychologists and psychiatrists come from major universities and hospitals. The teams are set up across Metro Manila and Luzon near major evacuation centers.

Volunteering is no stranger to the Tsinoy community as parents brought along even small children to help in the packing of relief goods. As one volunteer parent said, "I'd rather teach my child social responsibility through this [relief efforts], instead of him staying at home watching TV the whole week."

The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. also turned over 2,000 bags of relief goods to ABS CBN. More than the relief goods, they also donated P2 million to the

National Disaster Coordinating Council and another P1 million to the Philippine National Red Cross. The FFCCCII and Federation of Filipino-Chinese Association of the Philippines have collected approximately P31 million in cash from individuals and other organizations.

The Chinese Filipino Business Club had also turned over relief goods to ABS-CBN's Sagip Kapamilya, and also distributed goods to Marikina flood victims.

Volunteer fire fighters have been in operation the longest. They began with helping with the rescue efforts even at the height of the storm. Different fire brigades deployed themselves along creeks and the Pasig River rescuing people who were being swept away.

During the aftermath, fire trucks have been deployed to various local governments to help hose down the accumulated mud, and pump out floodwaters from affected public schools.

The World News, publisher of Tulay Fortnightly, has teamed up with the Overseas Chinese Alumni Association of the Philippines, to distribute relief goods to Marikina, Quezon City, Antipolo, Pasig and Marilao, Bulacan.

Conversations with different local government officials reveal that there are



Distributing relief goods in Pasig (left) and Quezon City (right)

enough relief goods, and there is even an overflow of goods in some areas. What is badly needed now are heavy equipment like backhoes, payloaders, and dump trucks to help clear the streets of mud and debris. Local governments like Montalban and

Marikina also need to stock up on rubber boats as part of their disaster preparedness efforts.

All funds utilized to buy relief goods come from individuals and organizations in the Tsinoy community.

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